

# NOTICIAS DE ANZA

Number 48

Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail

July 2011



*Students at Presidio Pastimes*

## Following the Anza Trail in Santa Barbara County: A Month of Events

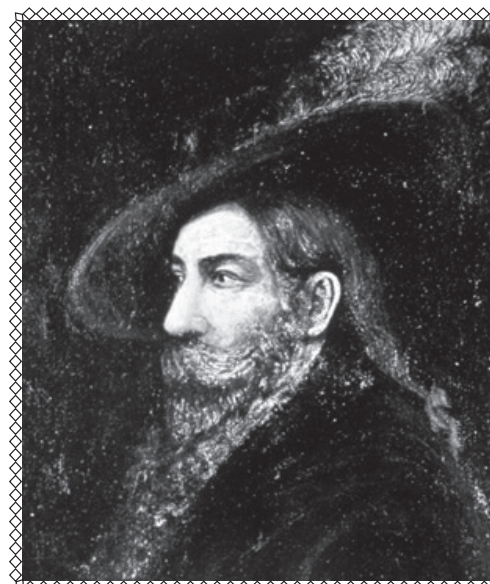
Torie Quiñonez, Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation

The month of May at El Presidio de Santa Bárbara State Historic Park saw a series of free public events that brought the Anza Trail to life for children and adults alike. In partnership with the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail, the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation (SBTHP) presented one event per week, featuring both hands-on living history and enlightening lectures. The Anza days began on May

7th, with “Presidio Pastimes: Following the Anza Trail through Santa Barbara.” This living history event introduced children and families to life in the era and milieu of the second expedition and on into the Californio period. In addition to adobe brick making, blacksmithing, fiber spinning, and Californio cookery demonstrations, participants learned to play the *Alabado* on the *psalterio*

*Continued on Page 3 ›*





### Noticias de Anza Sharing Anza Trail News & History

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#### Deadlines

September 1 for October issue  
December 1 for January issue  
March 1 for April issue  
June 1 for July issue

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## Retracing Anza in the East Bay

Nancy Kaiser, East Bay Regional Park District

Residents and visitors of Alameda and Contra Costa Counties can now follow the historic journey of Juan Bautista de Anza through what is now part of the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD). In partnership with the National Park Service, and with funding from the Challenge Cost Share Program, EBRPD developed 14 interpretive wayside panels and a comprehensive brochure that commemorates the story of the smaller expedition and the exploration of the East Bay in March and April, 1776.

"The brochure uniquely portrays the East Bay exploration," says Nancy Kaiser, Interpretive Services Manager for the District, "It's a trail guide, history chronicle and informational pamphlet all wrapped into one work of art." Local descendants of the Ohlone and Bay Miwok joined naturalists and graphic designers to develop the one-of-a-kind brochure.

The panels are being installed along Anza's route, from Mission Peak in Fremont to Big Break Regional Shoreline Park in Oakley. Each panel tells a story specific to the area, and includes quotes and observations from the diary of Father Pedro Font. Additionally, each panel highlights the homeland of the individual Ohlone-speaking tribe that inhabited the area in 1776.

With a nod towards emerging technologies, the brochure and panels also include a QR code which links the visitor to the National Park Service Anza Trail web site. QR stands for "quick response" and is a barcode that links a smart phone to supplemental data. Just download the app – it's free!

For more information about these Anza projects contact:

Nancy Kaiser  
[nkaiser@ebparks.org](mailto:nkaiser@ebparks.org)  
510-544-2526.

*From Page 1* › with Father Font, listened to the stories of Chumash, the first people encountered by Anza in Santa Barbara; and visited a pack mule while envisioning months of travel with their belongings tied to its back.

Living history demonstration stations filled the parade ground and back yards of the Presidio, while costumed demonstrators captivated their audiences with slices of life from 18th century Alta California. Also on display were two portable interpretive panels illuminating the story of the Anza expedition in Santa Barbara County, as well as an educational traveling trunk developed for the National Park Service (NPS) partnership and featuring objects and images that bring the expedition to life in the classroom. Classes of third graders from local schools had a sneak peek of the trunk during SBTHP's Early California Day on May 6th. Finally, a traveling Anza Trail exhibit from NPS was debuted inside the Padre's Quarters of the Presidio, its words and images echoing an identical display making stops at sites along the Anza Trail in Mexico.

The next week featured a much-anticipated lecture by Vladimir Guerrero, Ph.D., historian and author of *The Anza Trail and the Settling of California*. On May

*Project Coordinator Torie with a traveling trunk*



12th in the Presidio Chapel, Dr. Guerrero gave a talk entitled "Caste, Race, and Class in Spanish California." While the diversity of heritage of the Anza colonists is well-known to scholars, the racial mixtures and their meanings within the new society are often glossed over in commemorations of the expedition. Basing his discussion on the use of racial terminology and the caste hierarchies of New Spain, Guerrero's investigation into the transcendence and reorientation of race and class in Alta California's settler communities shed essential light on the identities of the first Californios and their descendants. His insightful lecture inspired interesting questions and comments from the audience, which continued well after the official question-and-answer session, making for an engaging and lively outdoor reception.

The final event was a talk given by Vanessa Crispin-Peralta, adjunct professor of history at Santa Barbara's Westmont College, who drew upon her doctoral dissertation, "Children at the Edge of Empire: A History of Childhood in Coastal California's Pueblos and Missions, 1750-1850," for her talk entitled "Marching for the Empire: Children on the Second Anza Expedition." The colonizing expedition is unique among the narratives of exploration and settlement of the Southwest due to the extraordinary fact that almost half of the people on this months-long march were younger than twelve. Yet, because the story of the Anza expedition is most often told from the perspective of the men who led it, the experiences of the children who would grow up to be members of the Californio elite are obscure. The social implications of their relocation and, with respect to Vladimir Guerrero's discussion of race, escape from externally imposed hierarchies, were explored in depth by Crispin-Peralta, who left us with still more thought-provoking questions about the actual experiences of the young people who left Northern Mexico to become Californios.

While the Anza expedition spent just a few nights passing through Santa Barbara County, these events attempted to evoke a shared sense of the past at the Presidio. By joining the local histories of cities and towns along the trail with this crucial element of what came before, we may trace the legacy of the Anza colonists, who created a society that changed the face of California forever.





Los Angeles participants at National Train Day

## National Train Day

Gary B. Coombs, Ph.D. - Director,  
South Coast Railroad Museum

Volunteers from the South Coast Railroad Museum staffed a National Park Service Trails & Rails booth at the 3rd Annual National Train Day on May 7 at the Los Angeles Union Station. Those participating included Ed Leska, Esther Velarde (both shown in the accompanying photograph), Carla Cabanatuan and Nancy Johnke.

The volunteers distributed Anza National Historic Trail brochures and answered questions about the Trails & Rails program, the Anza Trail, and the Anza expeditions.

National Train Day attendance in Los Angeles was estimated at 10,000. National Train Day events were also held in Washington, D.C. and other cities and towns throughout America.

*Anza Trailblazers at the Martinez Adobe ›  
John Muir NHS*

## Anza Trailblazers test Trail Inventory Toolkit

Steven Ross, Outdoor Recreation Planner, NPS

In March and April, two groups of students from Chico State University worked with Outdoor Recreation Planner Steve Ross to test and refine a Trail Inventory Toolkit. The Toolkit is intended to facilitate the documentation and official certification of existing segments of the Anza Recreational Trail by volunteers, partner organizations, and staff. The Anza Trailblazers students, primarily Recreation and Parks Management majors, are part of an annual field school program organized by Chico State professor Emilyn Sheffield and assisted by graduate students Amy & Jeff Gerbic.

The Anza Trailblazers first met Steve at the new Anza Trail exhibit at the John Muir National Historic Site in Martinez, CA, where they gained a strong understanding of, and appreciation for, the history of the Anza Expedition. Over the next several days, the group traveled to diverse segments of the Anza recreation trail in the nearby cities of Pittsburg, San Pablo, Richmond and Berkeley, where they tested a draft version of the Trail Inventory Form. After testing, the students revised the form to improve its usability by other volunteer groups. The students also had an opportunity to meet with staff from other park sites they visited, and participate in a weed abatement project at Wildcat Canyon Regional Park. By the end of the field school exercise, many of the students expressed their enthusiasm for the Anza Trail as well as their interest in similar trail planning exercises.



## Mysterious Reeds Make Great Walking Sticks

Mary Dahl & Shaw Kinsley, Tubac Presidio State Historic Park

One of the most remarkable objects available in the Tubac Presidio Park gift shop is a sturdy, lightweight, attractive, one-of-a-kind walking staff. The staffs are full of history, both natural and cultural. They are made from Arundo stalks which are harvested from the Anza campsite known as Las Lagunas in Nogales, Arizona. They are carefully trimmed and prepared as walking staffs by Santa Fe Ranch volunteers and staff. Volunteer-extraordinaire Don Clemans invented an Arundo rotisserie that allows him to finish the staffs with heat to bring out their natural beauty and individual character.

The great mystery is how these tall, sturdy reed plants from Asia got to Las Lagunas in the first place. Did tiny plant parts hitch a ride on (or in) one of Anza's soldier's horses? Or were the plants deliberately brought by some inventive 19th century entrepreneur eager to corner the musical reed and flute market in the American southwest? To begin to solve this mystery, it would be helpful if the mid-20th century denizens of the old drive-in theater in Nogales could tell us if the tall grass was there then, but that might be as likely as getting them to remember the titles of the movies they "watched"!

The reed is formally called *Arundo donax* but it is also known as Carrizo, Spanish cane, wild cane, and giant cane. Today it grows in a dense thicket along the north edge of Las Lagunas, a perennial wetlands owned for years by the Sedgwick Family. Tony Sedgwick and his Santa Fe Ranch Foundation have been restoring the wetlands, encouraging the return of wildlife, and sharing the wonder of the environment with local school kids as an outdoor environmental classroom and cultural site.

Arundo is an ancient plant that has been used for thousands of years for a variety of purposes. Egyptians used its leaves as a funereal wrap for the dead. It also has enjoyed less ghoulish utility as fishing poles and strong supports for climbing plants or vines. The ancients used Arundo to make musical flutes and pan pipes, which are considered to be the first mouth organ

and ancestor of the pipe organ and harmonica. (Little known fact: Peruvian police are issued pan pipes to be used as an alert to other officers in case of trouble.) The strong flexible nature of Arundo has made it the principal material for reeds for woodwinds such as oboes, bassoons, clarinets and saxophones.

As a sign of the times, Arundo is being evaluated and has shown great potential not only for biomass energy production, but also as a significant agent for below ground carbon sequestration. These are often viewed as critical to meeting the planet's energy needs and mitigating the effects of climate change.

Who knows what future our Las Lagunas Arundo stand has in helping us achieve energy and climate stability!

Drop by the Tubac Presidio gift shop and check out these splendid, historic walking staffs. The \$20 price includes an excerpt from Father Font's 18th c. diaries describing Las Lagunas. All proceeds are shared between the Santa Fe Ranch Foundation which owns Las Lagunas and the Tubac Historical Society which operates and maintains the Tubac Presidio State Historic Park located at 1 Burrue Street in Tubac, Arizona. It is open daily from 9am to 5pm. Admission to the Park is \$4 for adults, \$2 for children age 7 to 14, and free for kids under 7.

*Arundo walking sticks ›*





## Silverbell Park to El Rio Park

*This is the first issue in a new series by Steve Ross, NPS Outdoor Recreation Planner, intended to highlight segments of the Anza Recreational Trail. Your comments and suggestions to improve the content are appreciated!*

**Overview:** Located along the west bank of the Santa Cruz River, this well developed segment of multi-use trail follows the Anza expedition's route through what is now the town of Marana, a suburb of Tucson, Arizona. This segment of trail was officially certified as part of the Anza National Historic Trail in October 2010. Because the trail runs through the middle of town, it connects with numerous parks and neighborhoods. The trail offers good views of the river as well as views of distant mountains. The northern terminus of this segment, El Rio Park, is located close to where the Anza Expedition's camped on October 27, 1775. This camp is referred to as the Llano del Azotado (Plain of the Lashed), where expedition mule drivers were lashed for attempting desertion.

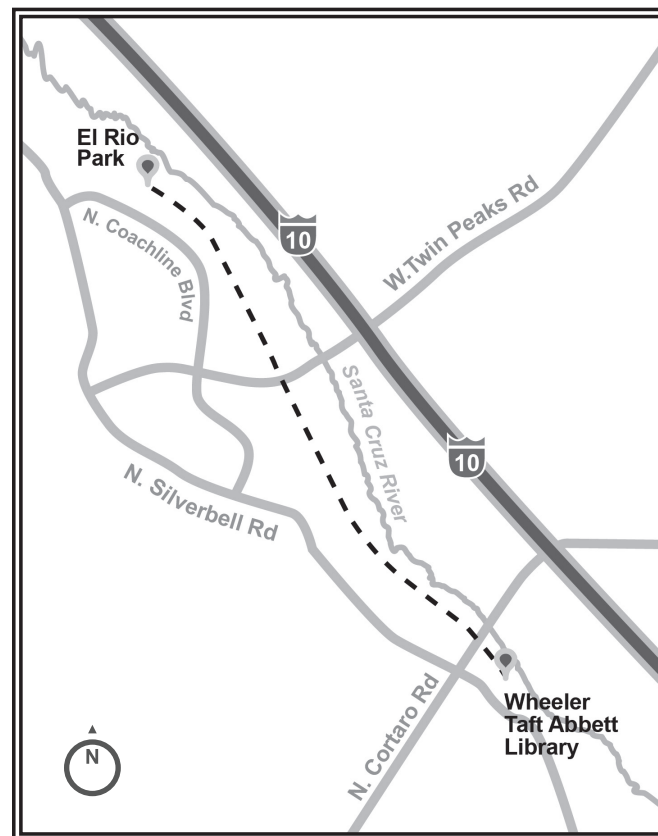
**Trailhead Directions:** (see map on right or website)

**Silverbell Park:** Park at the Wheeler Taft Abbott Library, located at 7800 N. Schisler Drive (southeast corner of Silverbell and Cortaro Roads), Marana, AZ. A path behind the library leads to an Anza Expedition interpretive panel and the trail.

**El Rio Park:** If starting at the north end of this segment, a small parking lot for El Rio Park is located between homes at the north end of N. Blue Crossing Way. From W. Twin Peaks Road, turn north on N. Coachline Blvd., right on W. Armor Crest Rd., then left on N. Blue Crossing Way.

**Trail Condition/Hazards:** This trail segment is paved, with the exception of a ¾ mile segment north of Cortaro Road, which is passable over compacted natural surface (this segment is scheduled to be paved in 1-2 years). Along Silverbell Park, the trail also includes a separate equestrian path. Most sections of the trail are flat and accessible to all users, but the trail is intermittently

Town of Marana, Arizona



**Length:** 4.35 miles (one way)  
**Facilities:** Parking, water, restrooms

For more information visit [www.trailink.com](http://www.trailink.com) and search "Santa Cruz River Park Trail."

interrupted by drainage channels, some of which have steep banks that could be a hazard for some users. Proximity to the river and the drainage channels may render some segments impassible during the rainy season.

**Events & Attractions:** The Marana Heritage Festival celebrates Anza Days each October in Heritage Park, along a nearby section of the Anza Trail that is on the east side of the Santa Cruz River. The Festival is a very popular community event which features the area's agricultural history, in addition to having performers, games and arts and crafts, food, and other exhibitors. Silverbell Park is a large city park with a state of the art library, and numerous sports fields and picnic facilities, and playgrounds. El Rio Park has a playground as well as a disc golf course.

## Paso Robles Festival of the Arts & Anza Trail advocacy

Dorothy Jennings, Amigos de Anza  
May 28, 2011

The Paso Robles Festival of the Arts was born of a need to raise awareness of the city's Salinas River Corridor project. The medium is through the eyes of artists. This third year's theme was "The Color of Water."

The Amigos de Anza - San Luis Obispo are one of eight environmental partners with the city participating in this event. Our mission is to educate visitors about the historic Anza Trail, its origin and cultural significance, as well as other activities supporting the implementation of a multi-use recreational trail the length of the county.

The city's River Vision booth was nearby and busy. Attendees learned about projects underway and what possibilities exist. Land for a new section of trail along the Salinas has recently been acquired.

In celebration of these unique and special annual events, the Amigos de Anza - San Luis Obispo offers hands-on sanding painting. Salinas River sand was one of the materials offered to paint historic images of Anza Trail expedition members.

*Children at Paso Robles Festival of the Arts*



## Arizona History Convention

Elizabeth Stewart, Anza Trail Foundation  
April 28-May 1, 2011

The 52nd Arizona History Convention was held along the Anza Trail Corridor in Yuma, Arizona. Over 150 convention attendees stopped at The Anza Trail Foundation's table to look at our colorful display and pick up Anza Trail brochures. Many of the sessions were held in the Anza Room at the Hilton Garden Hotel.

Foundation Board Member, Tina Clark catered a brunch for convention attendees on a tour to the Yuma Territorial Prison State Historic Park. The brunch was held in the guard tower overlooking the Colorado River. We were able to see in the distance where the confluence of the Gila and Colorado Rivers would have been during the Anza Expedition.





The FCC group listens as Annie McVay and Joya Szalwinski present at Yuha desert overlook.

## Department of Interior U.S. - Mexico Border Field Coordinating Committee

Joya (Joyce) Szalwinski, BLM Interpretive Specialist, El Centro Field Office  
May 3-4, 2011

The Department of Interior U.S. - Mexico Border Field Coordinating Committee (FCC) took place in El Centro, California in to discuss regional border topics, including emerging technologies and the development of renewable energy, as well as the cultural and natural resource issues associated with these projects. Representatives from Mexico, a Native American tribe and officials from around the U.S. participated. With the BLM El Centro Field Office leading the country in renewable energy applications, the group had plenty to talk about.

A tour of the area included a visit to the Yuha Desert, home to a large intact segment of the Anza NHT. From near the Anza Monument viewpoint overlooking the Yuha Basin, the group learned about the expedition's hardships as they traveled through this harsh environment. Joya Szalwinski, BLM Interpretive Specialist, Annie McVay, Arizona State University Ph.D. Candidate, and Steve Ross, NPS Outdoor Recreation Planner, each contributed to a presentation about trail planning and interpretation efforts between Yuma County, Arizona, and Imperial County, California. Joya spoke about her

current interpretation project which intends to connect with the many off-highway vehicle users of the area. As it turns out, off-highway-vehicle enthusiasts have more in common with Anza's group than you might imagine.

*"Today's visitor to the Yuha Desert shares many of the challenges faced by Anza's expedition. Travel is across an unforgiving terrain fraught with hazards, the desert stretching endlessly toward any horizon.*

*Navigating this landscape requires stamina, perseverance and more than a little luck. A change in the weather or an unfortunate vehicle breakdown may leave you scrambling for cover, or walking miles to safety. How different, then, are you from the 200 souls that covered this same ground some 230 years ago?"*

The group learned something unexpected here, that while the trail traces the history of Anza's expedition, its contemporary riders use their horsepower unknowingly for almost the same reason. Discovery. Exploration. An unexpected customer presenting a unique opportunity for interpretation.



## Partnership for National Historic Trails (PNTS) 13<sup>th</sup> Conference on National Scenic & Historic Trails

Elizabeth Stewart, Anza Trail Foundation  
May 14-18, 2011

Abingdon, VA - Annie McVay, ASU School of Community Resources and Development and Elizabeth Stewart, Anza Trail Foundation (ATF) Board Member, represented the Anza NHT at the Conference and Damascus Trail Days. Conference activities began with a big splash in Damascus. Two hundred trail enthusiasts from all over the country stopped at the ATF table in the PNTS Outreach Booth in Damascus to discuss the Anza NHT and pick up brochures. We marched in the Trails Day parade with other trail representatives through a gauntlet of water balloons and water guns.

The Conference focused on how trails can contribute to human, environmental, community, and educational health. Since the Conference activities took place in two trail gateway towns, Abingdon and Damascus, Virginia, we were able to see the benefits that scenic and historic trails had brought to those communities and how the towns had embraced and capitalized on the trails.

The Conference experience was enhanced by the participation of approximately thirty Trail Apprentices – youth leaders with some pretty amazing experience in diverse areas with trails. They were not shy about telling us what we need to do to make trails more relevant. We heard that a good story is not enough for historic trails – we need trail on the ground. Youth want to be able to see and do, they want two-way interactions, technology, and social media, and they want opportunities and respect.

Many Conference attendees stopped by the Foundation's table in Abingdon to watch our slide show, get a tattoo, and talk about the Anza Trail. We returned with new ideas, new friends, and renewed energy and enthusiasm.

Johanna Weston, a Trail Apprentice who lives near the Anza Trail in San Luis Obispo best described the value of the Conference, "The Trails and Conferences have made a strong impact on my personal and career path. Once I complete my Master's in Biology this summer, I am hoping to merge together my scientific

## Anza Trail Foundation Strategic Planning

Beverly Lane, ATF Secretary

The ATF is planning a facilitated workshop in July to develop a strategic plan and discuss membership options. In addition, it will focus on ways the Foundation could work to support local projects along the Trail in Arizona and California.

The Anza Trail Foundation's mission states that it is dedicated to collaboratively protect, enhance, develop, promote, fund, interpret and disseminate information about the historic expeditions of Juan Bautista de Anza and the Anza National Historic Trail.

Many thanks to Jeannie Gillen who has decided to retire as President of the ATF after decades of supporting and nurturing the Anza Trail. We will continue to turn to her for sage advice and historical perspectives. Happy trails, Jeannie!



Elizabeth Stewart and Annie McVay staff info table

training with my passion for the trails...I have returned to San Luis Obispo invigorated to increase awareness of the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail that runs through the town."





Anne Wheeler (right) with Amigos de Anza Drill Team

## California Trails & Greenways Conference

Steve Ross, NPS Outdoor Recreation Planner  
April 11-13, 2011

San Ramon, CA - The Anza Trail was well represented at this year's California Trails & Greenways Conference, an annual gathering of about 400 trails, recreation, and open space managers and supporters from throughout the State. The Anza Trails staff organized and hosted an all-day mobile workshop at this year's California Trails & Greenways Conference, titled Building and Interpreting the Anza National Historic Trail that was attended by fifteen conference participants, as well Anza Trailblazers from Chico State University.

During the interactive workshop, participants learned how NPS and its partner organizations interpret the historic trail and connect with diverse audiences. Superintendent Naomi Torres kicked off the morning with an introduction and engaging tour of the new Anza Trail exhibit at the John Muir National Historic Site. The group then traveled to a segment of the Anza Trail within Wildcat Canyon Regional Park, a unit of the EBRPD. The Amigos de Anza equestrian team and Anza reinactors dazzled the crowd while organizer Anne Wheeler

spoke about the unique challenges of interpretation with horses. Following lunch, Holly Alonso, Executive Director of the Peralta Hacienda Historical Park, spoke about her site's creative and interconnected approach to interpretation and connecting with diverse audiences. The group then took a stroll on a portion of the Anza Trail to the site of a new interpretive panel. Michael Charnofsky, Naturalist with EBRPD, described the design process behind the Anza interpretive panels that are being installed at nine trailheads within the EBRPD in 2011 as part of an NPS Challenge Cost-Share project. (See related article from Nancy Kaiser, EBRPD, page 2)

In addition to hosting the mobile workshop, the Anza Trail had continuous exposure at the conference through an engaging and well-placed exhibit table. Anza Trail Foundation Board member Beverly Lane helped with the table design and set up, which featured a mannequin dressed in historic costume as well as a digital slide show of Anza Trail images.



# ANUNCIOS

## July

7/16 **Native Plant Restoration:** Guy Tobin Trailhead, Nogales, AZ

7/25 **Lecture & Reception: Anza Traveling Exhibit**  
Fremont Main Library, 2400 Stevenson Blvd., Fremont, CA. 7:00p.m  
The Washington Township Historical Society will host a presentation by National Park Ranger Steve Ross, followed by reception. For more information, visit <http://www.aclibrary.org/branches/frm/>

## August

8/13 **Family Fandango** – Santa Teresa County Park, San Jose, CA. 5:00-8:00pm  
Come celebrate the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe, the early Spanish-speaking colonists, and the English-speaking ranch families. The evening's focus is family fun that highlight 1770-1870 California. More info: [janet.shriner@prk.sccgov.org](mailto:janet.shriner@prk.sccgov.org)

8/18 **Wild & Scenic Environmental Film Festival** – Tempe, AZ  
Join the Anza Trail Foundation and Arizona Wilderness Coalition for an evening of thought provoking films. For more information, visit [www.azwild.org](http://www.azwild.org).

8/20 **Tucson's Birthday!**  
The Tucson Presidio, 133 W Washington, Tucson AZ. 8am-10am - 3pm.  
Parking validation in the Presidio Garage.

## September

Hispanic Heritage Month 9/15 - 10/15

8/31 – 9/4 **East Bay Ridge Trail Hikes – Bay Area Ridge Trail/Anza Trail**  
More info: [www.ridgetrail.org](http://www.ridgetrail.org)

9/17 **Rancho Day Fiesta**  
1000 Linda Mar Boulevard, Pacifica, CA. Noon to 4pm.  
Celebrate California's Mexican Heritage. For more information, visit [www.historysmc.org](http://www.historysmc.org) or call 650 359-1462

9/18 **Port Costa School Centennial Celebration**  
Celebrate the 100th anniversary of the historic Port Costa School in this small town on the Carquinez Strait at a family-friendly event. Tours of the school, live music, food, entertainment, children's activities and guided walks in the area. More information can be found on [www.portcosta.com](http://www.portcosta.com)

\*\* Announce your event here! Contact us at [www.nps.gov/juba](http://www.nps.gov/juba) \*\*



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*Quarterly Newsletter of  
Juan Bautista de Anza  
National Historic Trail*

**One of thirty National Trails  
A Millennium Trail**

**National Park Service**  
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The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

**View From the Trail**



## On the Open Road, Again

Diane Barr, NPS Teach-Ranger-Teacher

On Saturday, May 7, 2011, 120 car enthusiasts in their circa 1900 Fords hit the open, dirt, road once again. The north and south gates of the Anza Trail outside San Juan Bautista, California opened for some very special travelers. Prior to becoming part of the Anza Trail system in 1999, the Old Stagecoach Road connected the Salinas Valley to the Santa Clara Valley over the hills of the Gabilan Mountains. In order to not become an abandoned road, the normally gated portion of the road-turned-trail in San Benito County is opened once a year for vehicles.

The travelers in their cars met at the state's oldest Ford Dealership located in downtown Hollister. Teacher-Ranger-Teacher, Diane Barr, thanked and informed the audience briefly of the National Trail status of the road. She also manned an informational table



*Old Stage Coach Road, San Juan Bautista, CA*

with maps, brochures, photos, and history of their route through the area of the first colonists. Sunshine and smiles reflected off their polished hoods as the cars paraded up, over, and down the trail. Imagine what Anza would have thought of that!

